

BAISAKHI CELEBRATION – INDIA@75
(VIRTUAL EVENT)

SPEECH POINTS

1. Warm greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Baisakhi.
2. A religious and historical festival in Sikhism, Baisakhi is also the beginning of a new solar year as per the Hindu calendar. The day is also a spring harvest festival. It also commemorates the formation of the Khalsa Panth, under the leadership of Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the year 1699.
3. This is a month of festivities. Let me take this opportunity to convey my greetings and best wishes to all of you on the holy month of Ramadan. We are also celebrating a variety of festivals marking the Hindu calendar New Year as well as the harvest festivals; my greetings and best wishes to all of you for the same.
4. India is a land of diversity, with various cultures, traditions, beliefs and religions under one roof. It is also the land of festivities. The harvest festival, Baisakhi, is celebrated as Ugadi in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. It is called as Vishu in Kerala, Bohag Bihu in Assam.
5. As you may be aware, this year we have also commenced celebrations for India@75. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi launched the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' on 12th March 2021. It is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. It is an embodiment of India's socio-cultural, political and economic identity. The Embassy of India will be organizing a series of events to commemorate 75th Anniversary of India's Independence during the next two years in partnership with the Indian associations in Bahrain. I look forward to active participation of our community associations and members in these celebrations.
6. Our joy of celebrating the festivals such as this celebration for Baisakhi festival increases manifold when we share it with our friends in Bahrain. India and Kingdom of Bahrain have people to people and cultural connect dating back to centuries to the period of Indus valley and Dilmun civilisations. Our bilateral relations have strengthened and diversified over the years. You, the members of our vibrant

community in Bahrain, play a very important role in cementing our bilateral ties and further strengthening the existing goodwill between our two countries.

7. I was very much looking forward to meet all of you physically on this occasion. However given Covid pandemic and restrictions, we are holding these celebrations virtually which is now become a new normal in our lives. As many of you would be aware that besides making continuous efforts in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic at home, both in the health as well as post-Covid economic recovery front, India is at the forefront of global efforts in this regard. India has always believed in sharing the fruits of development with the global community, in line with our age old tradition of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbkam' i.e. the world is one family. It was this outlook of human-centric cooperation that drove India's efforts of fighting Covid-19 pandemic and more recently the VaccineMaitri. India has already supplied over 65 million doses of Made-in-India vaccines to about 90 countries in the world including friendly Kingdom of Bahrain.

8. The Kingdom of Bahrain is among the few countries which have successfully handled the COVID-19 pandemic. Our two countries have closely cooperated and collaborated in dealing with the global pandemic. The Leadership and Government of Bahrain took special care of the Indian community during Covid-19 pandemic, including providing free vaccination to citizens and residents alike. I urge the Indian community support Kingdom's efforts, get themselves vaccinated and stay safe.

9. I wish all of you a very Happy Baisakhi. May this New Year bring peace, health and prosperity in all of your lives.
